8th December 1954]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) All short-term loans are ordinarily repayable within a period of five years."

Reorganization of Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar into multi-purpose societies.

* 278 *Q.*—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation from the Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar for their conversion into multi-purpose societies ; and

(*b*) if so, the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir. Several Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar have requested that they might be reorganized into multi-purpose societies on the basis of limited liability.

" (*b*) The Government examined the request in consultation with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and found that it was not possible to comply with it."

* 279 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation from the Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar requesting that they may be changed into multi-purpose co-operative societies; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer furnished to Madras Legislative Assembly starred question No. 278 by Sri P. K. Gopalakrishnan, M.L.A., on the same subject."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, there are 107 Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar. They have a very large amount of share-capital and a large amount of accumulated reserves. If they are allowed to function as multi-purpose societies, they can function usefully now that rationing and procurement have been abolished. Therefore, will the Government reconsider their position and see that these societies are allowed to function as multi-purpose societies with limited liability and not unlimited liability."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government have examined this question in consultation with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and they see that under section 4 of the Madras Co-operative Societies Act, it is not feasible to convert them into multi-purpose societies on the basis of limited liability. However, Government have accepted another recommendation of the Registrar that the